



August 18, 2003

A combined contribution with
-Cooperative Extension Service
-USDA Farm Service Agency
-The Oklahoma Mesonet

Soil Moisture Supplies Continue to Dwindle

August 17 - A few scattered showers crossed the Southeast and East Central portions of the State. However, most areas of Oklahoma failed to receive any significant amounts of moisture last week. The dry conditions and extreme heat continued to have a negative impact on crops and pastures. More rainfall is greatly needed Statewide to replenish soil moisture levels to aid planting of fall small grain crops and to minimize stress to row crops and pastures. Corn, sorghum, and soybean harvest was beginning in some portions of the State. Producers were busy preparing seedbeds and applying fertilizer for fall planting despite the dry conditions. Soil moisture supplies remained mostly very short to short. Farmers had 6.3 days suitable for fieldwork during the week.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	48	37	15	0
Last Week	46	35	19	0
Last Year	10	30	50	10

SUBSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	38	41	21	0
Last Week	32	45	23	0
Last Year	16	31	51	2

Small Grains: Dry conditions continued to slow preparation for planting across the State. At week's end, 27 percent of the wheat ground had been prepared for seeding. Oat and rye seedbeds were 22 and 30 percent prepared, respectively.

Row Crops: Hot temperatures and lack of moisture continued to stress row crops. It has also caused these crops to mature ahead of normal. Harvest was underway for corn, sorghum, and soybeans. Nine percent of the corn acreage had been harvested while sorghum and soybean harvest were 3 and 2 percent harvested, respectively. Corn condition was rated as mostly good to excellent and 34 percent of the crop had reached maturity. Sorghum condition declined from last week and ranged from mostly poor to good. At week's end, 70 percent of the sorghum crop had headed while 30 percent was coloring. Soybean condition remained rated as mostly poor to good with 7 percent of the crop maturing. Peanut condition was rated as mostly fair to good. Peanuts setting pods advanced during the week and totaled 94 percent complete while 10 percent of the crop had reached maturity. The cotton crop was rated in mostly fair to good condition with 80 percent setting bolls. Cotton bolls were opening on 7 percent of the acreage.

ROW CROPS CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending August 17, 2003

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	0	3	14	36	47
Sorghum	5	29	41	25	0
Soybeans	4	21	39	35	1
Peanuts	0	7	41	46	6
Cotton	7	13	49	28	3

Hay: Both alfalfa and other hay conditions ranged from mostly poor to good across the state. The fourth cutting of alfalfa advanced to 33 percent cut. The second cutting of other hay was at 64 percent cut.

HAY CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending August 17, 2003

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Alfalfa	6	18	46	26	4
Other Hay	6	20	39	32	3

Pasture: Pasture and range conditions continued to dwindle from the hot and dry weather and were rated in mostly poor to fair condition. Grasshopper problems were still being reported in many areas and they continued to damage pastures.

Livestock: Many cattle herds were showing signs of stress but were still rated in mostly fair to good condition. Water levels were depleting quickly and have caused major concerns for producers. Cattle auctions reported an decrease in marketings of steers under 800 pounds, but an increase in heifers less than 800 pounds. The price for feeder steers less than 800 pounds decreased from last week by an average of fourteen cents per cwt. and averaged \$94.57 per cwt. The average price for feeder heifers less than 800 pounds increased from last week by sixty-two cents per cwt. and averaged \$90.66 per cwt.

LIVESTOCK CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending August 17, 2003

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Livestock	1	4	31	49	15
Pasture & Range	7	26	46	19	2

Oklahoma Crop-Weather Summary
2800 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

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TIME DATED MATERIAL

OKLAHOMA CROP PROGRESS									
Week Ending August 17, 2003									
Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 - Yr. Avg.	Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 - Yr. Avg.
Wheat -					Soybeans -				
Plowed	97	95	96	95	Blooming	84	76	86	84
Seedbed Prepared	27	15	40	33	Setting Pods	64	54	68	63
Rye					Mature	7	n/a	1	1
Seedbed Prepared	30	25	45	37	Harvested	2	n/a	1	1
Oats -					Peanuts -				
Plowed	98	96	99	94	Setting Pods	94	85	88	90
Seedbed Prepared	22	13	34	26	Mature	10	1	8	4
Corn -					Cotton -				
Silking	93	92	100	100	Setting Bolls	80	70	80	89
Dough	70	61	77	85	Bolls Opening	7	2	3	2
Mature	34	28	54	28	Alfalfa -				
Harvested	9	n/a	7	4	3 rd Cutting	97	95	96	90
Sorghum -					4 th Cutting	33	25	49	34
Headed	70	60	62	72	Other Hay -				
Coloring	30	25	40	28	2 nd Cutting	64	46	72	47
Mature	8	n/a	6	5	Watermelons -				
Harvested	3	n/a	1	1	Harvested	95	91	93	87

WEATHER FOR WEEK ENDING AUGUST 17, 2003 - Temperatures ranged from 54 degrees at Boise City on Wednesday, August 13th to 104 degrees at Cherokee and Marshall on Sunday, August 17th. Precipitation averaged 0.00 in. Panhandle district to 0.79 in. Southeast district. Soil temperatures averaged 75 degrees at Shawnee on Wednesday, August 13th to 92 degrees at Durant on Sunday, August, 17th.

MESONET TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA							
Week Ending August 17, 2003							
Districts	Temperature			Precipitation			
	High	Low	Average	This Week	March 1, 2003 to August 17, 2003		
					Total	Departure from Normal	Percent of Normal
	Degrees			Inches			
Panhandle	90	62	77	0.00	11.42	- 2.26	83
West Central	92	67	79	0.03	12.31	- 5.07	71
Southwest	93	67	80	0.10	14.00	- 3.72	79
North Central	93	67	80	0.02	13.53	- 5.42	71
Central	92	67	79	0.12	14.65	- 6.34	70
South Central	93	67	79	0.27	13.32	- 8.16	62
Northeast	92	66	78	0.05	19.75	- 2.92	87
East Central	91	67	78	0.27	17.58	- 6.14	74
Southeast	91	67	78	0.79	16.49	- 8.60	66